



Series Final Week

Passage Matthew 23:1-39, 24:1-15

Title The Sovereignty of Christ

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Discussion Starter: What were some of the different ways Jesus demonstrated His sovereignty to the Jews and the disciples in these two chapters? In what ways is Jesus revealing His sovereignty in your life today?

Avoiding the Snare of Useless Religion (Matthew 23:1-36; Luke 12:48; Romans 2:17-24; Micah 6:8)

- What message was Jesus conveying to the crowd when He said that the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat?
- Given Jesus' remarks about the Pharisees in chapters 21-22, what is surprising about His remarks in 23:3? How does He limit His condemnation of the Pharisees?
- According to Matthew 23:3-7 what were the four charges Jesus made against the scribes and the Pharisees? Which sinful character attributes did each of the four charges made by Jesus reveal?
- Compare the path followed by the Pharisees versus what Jesus prescribes to His disciples in verses 23:8-12? What do these two views of greatness teach us about the two views of the kingdom?
- Why do you think it was more difficult for the scribes and Pharisees to comply with the weightier matter of God's law? What in particular do you think the scribes and Pharisees missed hitting the mark most on in Micah 6:8? How does this verse apply to us as Christians today?

Jesus Gave the UNTHINKABLE PROPHECY (Matthew 23:37-24:15; 1 John 2:17)

- In light of what is about to happen to Jesus on the cross and how harsh He has spoken to the religious leaders of Israel, what do you see in Jesus' nature revealed in His analogy of a hen with her chicks?
- In Matthew 24:2 Jesus tells the disciples that there is not going to be one stone left upon another in the temple that was built for the Jews by Herod. Herod's goal was to build something that would outlast the great pyramids of Egypt. We see that what Jesus says He does as this temple was brought down in 70AD by the Romans. According to 1 John 2:17 what are the things that are going to last for eternity and those that are not?
- The disciples come to Jesus privately and ask Him three questions. What were these three questions they asked and how does this prophecy compare to the temple being destroyed? Why do you think it is important that we as Christians are to know so much information about the Great Tribulation?